

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 9, 1999

LB 126

purchasing and consuming alcohol because it's a problem in this state. It's a problem in every state that we need to take a look at. Mr. Chairman, there's some committee amendments. Maybe I should go on to the committee amendments at this time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schellpeper, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 126.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairmar. The committee amendments don't really change the thrust of the bill. What we're attempting to do with the committee amendments, in the committee statement you notice that there was some opposition from the retailers, and so we sat down with the retailers and with some of the different groups involved and seeing if there wasn't kind of a middle ground where we could come to some agreement so we'd get something passed. As I stated before, this bill...this issue has been around for several years, and it seemed like there is always fighting amongst both sides. So we thought that if we could come with some committee amendments that would kind of bring everyone together, at least we would get something passed this year. But the committee amendments, the compliance check of a retailer would have to be conducted by, in conjunction with, or under the direction of the State Patrol, and conducted pursuant to guidelines adopted by the State Patrol. That was an issue, especially around Omaha, where some of the smaller police forces were doing stings and they were doing them like once a week on certain establishments. And the State Patrol, no one had any argument with the State Patrol stings, but it was, basically, with the other ones, and so we thought that would help. To add "consume", we wanted to define consume. It is drinking or ingesting alcoholic liquor. It may be proved by evidence of intoxication or aroma of alcohol on the breath. If they would...if...the minor would have the right to take a chemical test to rebut the charge if they wanted to. If they say they were in a car and they were not drinking, then they would not lose their driver's license. Possession is defined as being in physical contact with or having physical control over alcoholic liquor. A minor who has a container of alcoholic liquor within the reach of his or her arms would be presumed to be in possession of such liquor. There would be a driver's license reinstatement fee of \$95 for a minor, who had their license suspended. This is the same as a DUI